

GayCommunity News

THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALES

November 16, 1985
VOL. 13, NO. 18

BIPAD: 65498

\$1.00



Colleen McKay

**Author
Jan Clausen:
Feminism
and Fiction
in the '80s**

**Cops Trash
Black, Gay
Boston Club**



Susan Bernstein

GayCommunityNews

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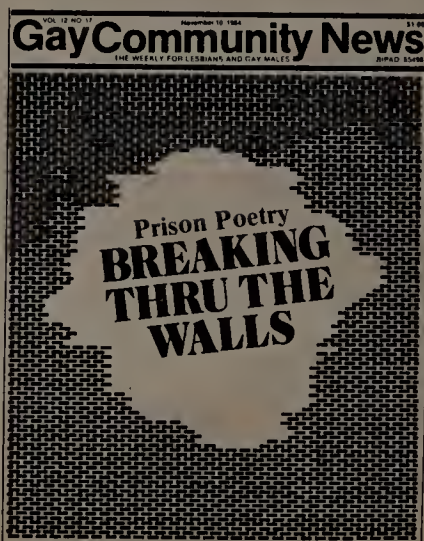
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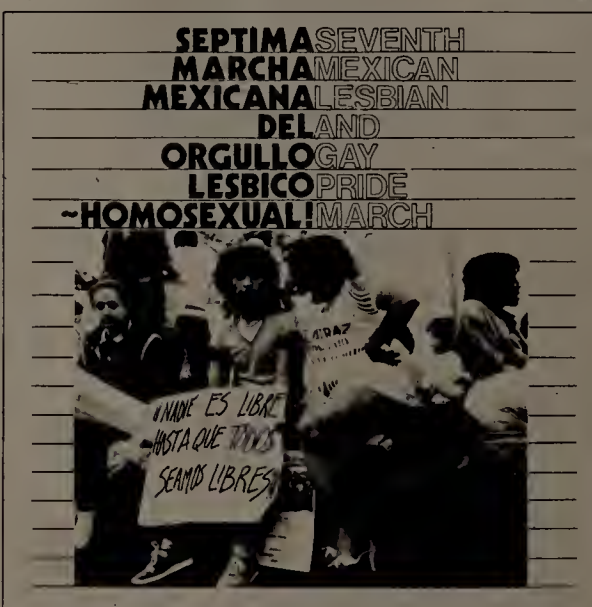


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November 2, 1985 VOL. 13, NO. 18 \$1.00 BIPAD 65498

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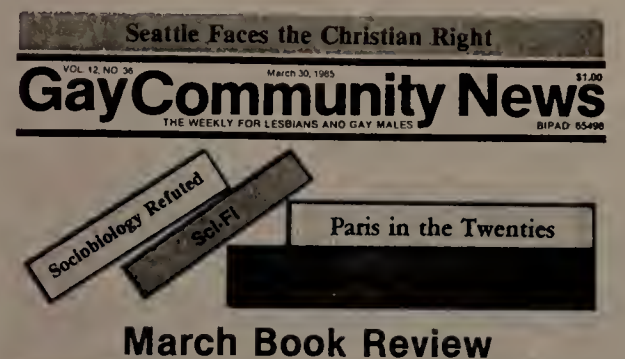
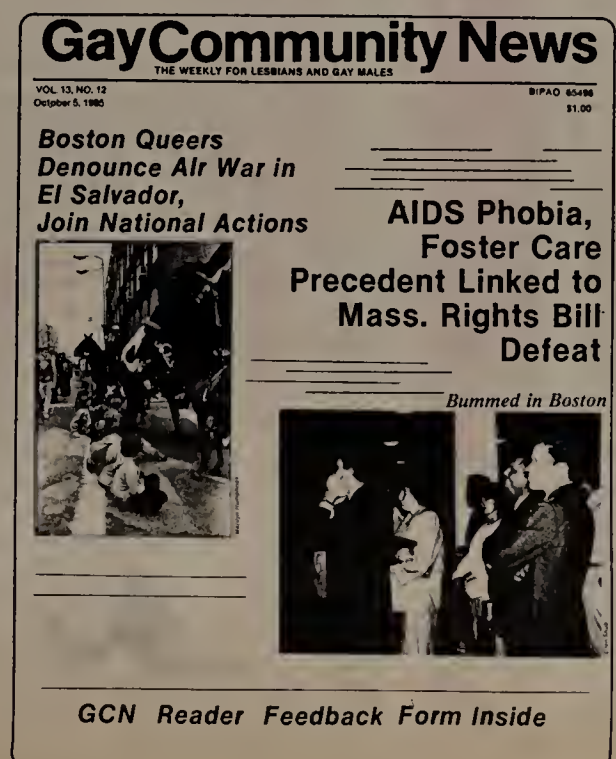
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Vol. 13, No. 18

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November 16, 1985

Confidentiality out the window

Pentagon Orders Mass HTLV-III Screening

By Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

WASHINGTON, DC — In an October 24 memo, the Pentagon announced that it will test all active duty and reserve personnel for HTLV-III antibody. The memo further said that members of the armed forces who reveal that they are gay in the course of medical evaluations after the antibody test may be processed for discharge.

The Pentagon has been ap-

proaching the point of mass screening for HTLV-III antibody for nearly six months. In June, it announced its intent to require civilian blood banks collecting blood on military installations to turn over the names of all military donors who tested antibody positive (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 4). Earlier this fall it announced that it would test all recruits and overseas

personnel for the antibody (see *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 9).

According to Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Col. Pete Wyro, servicemembers will be tested for HTLV-III antibody for no other reasons than to counter the spread of AIDS and to enhance "military readiness" and "deployability" to parts of the world where an "impaired immune response may be

detrimental." Wyro did not comment on which parts of the world he considered safe for a servicemember with an impaired immune response. Military personnel will be screened by unit according to a list of priorities. At the top of that list are units assigned to parts of the world where there is endemic disease and minimal medical care. Following this, personnel pending assignment overseas will be tested. Third, the military will test units subject to deployment overseas. Next, all personnel who deal with people with AIDS will be tested, including medical personnel. Finally, the military will test all other active duty and reserve members. Wyro said that at this time it appears that units will only be screened for the antibody once.

Personnel who test positive will, according to Wyro, be further evaluated by military medical staff. Those who test antibody

positive, but who do not have AIDS, may be put on limited duty, while those who have AIDS will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. AIDS will now be considered a service-related disability, although it is unclear whether those people with AIDS who are ultimately discharged will get full medical benefits. The form that medical evaluation will take, the nature of limited duty, and the timing of the actual testing have yet to be determined and will be left to the various branches of the military. Clinical definitions of AIDS, however, are being drawn up by the Department of Defense's Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, and will be standardized.

According to Wyro, information gathered in the process of medical counseling may be used to discharge a servicemember. This includes information that a ser-

*Continued on page 6**Black, gay clientele the target?*

Cops Trash 'The Loft'



Susan Bernstein

presence at the club. They also said uniformed officers kept their badges hidden, and one wore a flannel shirt over his uniform.

Police spokesperson Evans told *GCN* the Bureau of Professional Standards will investigate the matter. "[The Bureau] would ask for cooperation with all parties, including the Loft," she said. The Loft's attorney, William Marino, said they would cooperate with the investigation. But Loft officials are more wary, with one suggesting they may refuse to cooperate with any internal investigation. Boston does not have a civilian police review board.

Evans also said the club is "unlicensed" and "the subject of many complaints." She said, "Over 200 complaints are on file at Boston Municipal Court." However, Marino countered that the 200 complaints "go back a long way. Most will be dismissed [and the] courts have set aside some complaints."

A meeting initiated by city councillor David Scondras between the Loft and Boston Police Commissioner Francis (Mickey) Roache preceded by less than twenty-four hours the latest raid. Gary Dotterman, an aide to Scondras, said they asked the commissioner who

Continued on page 3

Police handiwork at the Loft, Boston

By Christine Guilfoxy

BOSTON — A police raid on a Boston after-hours club, the Loft, has resulted in extensive damage to the premises. Six employees were arrested on charges of "keeping and exposing alcohol with the intent to sell." The October 25 raid was the third in a three-week period. In addition to the damage, sound and lighting equipment was confiscated. The club has been temporarily closed until the building is repaired and equipment is returned by police.

Twenty-nine patrons were also taken to the police station, but were later released. According to Boston police spokesperson Detective Mary Evans, the club was also charged with providing unlicensed entertainment.

Loft officials, who did not want to be identified because of pending court action, said at least a dozen uniformed officers and detectives were involved in the raid and a half-dozen squad cars were outside.

The Loft, which is open only on Friday and Saturday nights from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m., has been the object of police raids and court actions since 1979. On Fridays, the club's clientele is primarily Black and heterosexual. On Saturdays, it is primarily gay and male. The latest raid occurred on a Friday. Owners estimate the damage to be between \$30,000 and \$50,000.

A defense committee composed of club patrons held a press conference on November 1 at which they described the chain of events. One member of the committee, who identified herself as Caliga, said the police entered the club at approximately 3:30 a.m. When the police arrived, they stopped the music, she said, and patrons began to file out. Caliga said a friend of hers, who was one of the last

patrons to leave, saw police kicking in a wall. Members of the committee said the club was "intact" when they left. The police, they said, were the last ones in the building and had taken the keys from the owner.

The six arrested employees were processed and released at 6:00 a.m. Along with several patrons, they returned to the club to find extensive damage inside. The reflective globe over the dance floor had been broken. Two speakers were overturned and kicked in. Sound and lighting equipment had been confiscated and wires were ripped out of walls. A wall and door were kicked in, a mirror broken, a cable had been hacksawed to expose individual wires, furniture was overturned, and a movie screen was stained. In addition, some of the stairs between the first and third floors had been cracked, apparently when police rolled confiscated beer kegs down them.

Upon leaving the Loft on Friday night, members of the committee reported hearing police comments such as, "Let's decorate this place," and "Let's mark it up."

According to Caliga, the committee was formed at the police station on the night of the raid by patrons who were concerned about the arrests of employees. She told *GCN* that the police allowed them to remain at the station until they were overheard planning an organized response. Then, she said, the police threatened them with arrest unless they left the station. Committee members also said police waved an "African fertility goddess" which had been taken from the club, claiming it was a "voodoo doll." Several members of the committee said they were frightened by police

High Court to Hear Georgia Sodomy Case

By Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

WASHINGTON, DC — The Supreme Court announced on November 4 that it will hear a case that could affect the privacy rights of lesbians and gay men.

The case, *Hardwick v. Bowers*, concerns a gay man arrested in his Georgia home for acts of consensual "sodomy." Although the charges against the man, Michael Hardwick, were ultimately dropped, he challenged the law on the basis that it violated his right to privacy. The case was dismissed by a district court, but the Atlanta-based 11th Circuit Court ruled on May 21 that "the Georgia [sodomy] statute infringes upon the fundamental rights of the homosexual ... The activity he

[sic] hopes to engage in is quintessentially private ... [and] beyond the proper reach of state regulation." The ruling further stated that "the state must prove in order to prevail that it has a compelling interest in regulating this behavior and that the statute is the most narrowly drawn means of safeguarding that interest." (See *GCN* Vol. 13, No. 3)

"I respectfully submit that the 11th Circuit was in error in ignoring binding precedent," said Michael Bower, Attorney General for the State of Georgia. Although Bowers would not comment on the arguments he would use in court, the precedent to which he refers is

*Continued on page 11**Scondras, McGuire reelected in Boston*

Elections a Mixed Bag for Gay People, Progressives

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — The lowest voter turnout in Boston history, ostensibly due to torrential rain throughout the day, yielded good and bad tidings for lesbians, gay men, and progressive voters on election day. Traditionally, low voter turnout favors incumbents and this day was no exception. All of the incumbent city councillors retained their seats, while only one school committee member lost to a challenger.

First for the good tidings, Boston's first openly gay city councillor, David Scondras, was reelected for a second term by a 2-1 landslide. Scondras, who was endorsed by the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (BLGPA) as well as the Rainbow Coalition, is well known as an advocate for tenants and lesbians and gay men. He has also spoken out against

U.S. aggression in Central America and apartheid in South Africa.

As for the bad tidings, veteran councillor Albert O'Neil brought in the most votes among the at-large city councillors. O'Neil's campaign was characterized by homophobic attacks directed at challenger Michael Kane. In his political advertisements, O'Neil claimed that Kane was a "carpet-bagger from Texas and a pawn of lesbian and gay sick's [sic]." O'Neil is the only city councillor who voted against the human rights ordinance in Boston, claiming that there was a section of the ordinance that said that gay men and lesbians were "seeking to have full use of public accommodations (ladies room.) [sic]."

Candidates endorsed by BLGPA generally fared well. In the city

council race, endorsed incumbents Bruce Bolling, Christopher Iannella, Michael McCormack, and Brian McLaughlin won by clear margins. Bolling and McLaughlin were also endorsed by the Rainbow Coalition.

McLaughlin, a strong supporter of lesbian and gay rights, was the incumbent who won by the smallest margin. He faced a strong challenge from Richard Izzo as well as attacks from Boston University President John Silber. Silber was determined to thwart McLaughlin's reelection due to the latter's long-standing opposition to Boston University's expansion into the Allston-Brighton neighborhood represented by McLaughlin.

Faring less well than the pro-

Continued on page 3

News Notes

quote of the week

"Committed homosexuals might hold that a detailed account of homosexual behaviour was a legitimate thing, and they might strongly dispute that it was indecent or obscene, and object to it being so described by others.... The question is not what they [gay men/lesbians] think, but what others thought who did not share that predilection."

— Magistrate Christopher Bourke, on ordering a trial by jury for London's Gay's the Word Bookshop, now facing over 100 charges laid by Her Majesty's Customs and Excise, as reported in the *Body Politic*, November, 1985.

Bourke makes it plain only heterosexuals can decide whether gay/lesbian literature is obscene. And vice versa, Mr. Bourke?

freedom, fiction, and family: black women today

CAMBRIDGE, MA — The Women's Studies program at Mass. Institute of Technology (MIT) proudly presents *Freedom, Fiction, and Family: Black Women Today*. This three-part series will explore the experiences of Black women through their political struggles, literature, and psychological and social situations.

The series will begin on November 14, 1985, with Nomazizi Sokudela of the African National Congress. She will speak on "Women in the South African Liberation Struggle" at 8 p.m. in the Schell Room, 43-101, at MIT.

Other participants will be Toni Cade Bambara, author, teacher, and activist, who will read from her work; and Helen Moore, psychologist, who will speak on women and the contemporary Black family.

The series is free and open to the public. For further information, please call Cindy Brown at MIT Women's Studies, 617-253-8844.

— Stephanie Poggi

boston against aids

BOSTON — A "Boston Against AIDS" benefit is being planned jointly by the AIDS Action Committee (AAC), and radio stations WBCN-FM and WXKS-FM (KISS) at the Metro. Tentatively scheduled to appear at the December 4 benefit are pop entertainers Dionne Warwick and Burt Bacharach.

Harry Collings of the AIDS Action Committee said 2,000 tickets will be offered for sale at \$50 apiece and that all proceeds will go directly to the AAC and to the Massachusetts General Hospital AIDS research unit. All labor is being donated by both entertainers and organizers and the Metro has donated the space for the night. "One hundred percent of the proceeds" will go directly to fight AIDS, said Collings.

According to Boston *Herald* columnist Norma Nathan, others who are being asked to entertain or give support to the event are the Four Tops and Cyndi Lauper, as well as Boston Celtics Basketball players Bill Walton, Larry Bird, and ex-Celtic Dave Cowens.

— Christine Guilfooy

aids is spreading in central africa

CHICAGO — The prevalence of the HTLV-III antibody may run as high as 15 percent among healthy heterosexuals in the Central African countries of Rwanda and Zaire, according to a report released by the American Medical Association on November 7. The report cites other research, as yet unconfirmed by ongoing studies, which has indicated a seropositivity in Equatorial Africa of approximately 10 percent among adults and as high as 35 percent to 67 percent among children.

The AMA report, which is based on studies conducted by researchers from Sainte-Pierre Hospital in Brussels, Belgium and the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, also concludes that prostitutes, especially those in Central African countries, should be considered a new high-risk group for AIDS. Of 84 Central African prostitutes tested for HTLV-III, 67 (or 80 percent) were antibody-positive. In addition, of 24 adults with AIDS studied in Rwanda, 12 of 17 men had had contacts with prostitutes, and three of seven women had had contact with johns. The AMA summary noted that the group of 67 prostitutes claimed heterosexuality and denied any intravenous drug use, but did not indicate whether such information was available about the people with AIDS.

— Pam Mitchell

pre-trial hearing for man accused of dyke-bashing

LYNN, MA — A pre-trial hearing for Lee Cunningham, the man accused of assaulting a lesbian here on September 28 (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 13), will be held in Lynn District Court on November 13, at 10:30 a.m. An informational picket outside the courthouse is being organized by the Feminist Cluster, a direct-action network of women's affinity groups and individuals. The picket will protest sexist and homophobic violence, police misconduct in the investigation of the alleged crime, and the prosecutor's failure to charge Cunningham with anything more serious than "simple assault," which is a misdemeanor.

The Action Task Force of the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee, the group spearheading opposition to Massachusetts' homophobic foster care policy, intends to join the protest. Individuals are also urged to write letters to the Boston *Globe*, the Lynn *Daily Evening*, and other North Shore papers. A carpool to the courthouse will be leaving the Women's Center at 46 Pleasant St. in Central Square, Cambridge, at 9 a.m. on the 13th. The courthouse is located at 580 Essex St., Lynn. The Feminist Cluster can be reached at (617) 628-4382.

— Loie Hayes



Nick Thorkelson/CPF

a victory for columbia clerical workers

NEW YORK — After 5 years of organizing and a 5-day walkout, clerical workers at New York's Columbia University ratified their first contract on Oct. 22. The settlement not only gives a six-percent across-the-board wage increase and improved benefits, but also raises minimum wages for the lower pay grades where people of color are clustered and provides some protection from the hazards of VDTs and other new technology.

According to a report in the *Guardian*, the workers' union, UAW/District 65, has actively championed issues of pay equity, affirmative action, and support for university divestment in South Africa on behalf of a bargaining unit that is three-fourths women and one-half Black. The *Guardian* reported that worker militancy and broad community support contributed to the favorable contract, which follows years of stalling tactics by the Columbia administration. The strike and subsequent excellent contract won by clerical workers at Yale last year also helped lay the groundwork for the Columbia victory.

— Pam Mitchell

second annual seminar on gay/lesbian suicide

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco Suicide Prevention Inc. (SFSP) will hold its second annual seminar on gay/lesbian suicide on January 25, 1986, at the Women's Building here.

Workshops will focus on suicide among lesbians and gay men, the elderly, people with AIDS, and youth. The keynote speaker will be Virginia Apuzzo, former director of the National Gay Task Force.

The seminar is open to lesbians and gay men, health workers, and community agency volunteers and staff.

For more information, write SFSP, 3940 Geary Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94118, or call (415) 752-4866.

— Stephanie Poggi

announcing a lesbian network in central mass

ASHBY, MA — A network is being formed to help lesbians who live in central Massachusetts and far from lesbian/gay communities and services to meet each other. Lesbians Inviting New Connections (LINC) will provide members with a list of women wanting to make contact with other women; first names, phone or P.O. box numbers, and lists of interests are included. Lesbians and bisexual women of all ages, colors, shapes and sizes, single, coupled, or in other situations are invited to participate. There is no fee for membership. For information, write to LINC, P.O. Box 52, Ashby, MA 01431.

— Stephanie Poggi

lesbian daughters of holocaust survivors

BOSTON — Lesbian daughters of Holocaust survivors gathered here for a weekend discussion on October 18 and 19. The event, a result of networking by women from Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania, gave daughters of survivors, as well as their friends and lovers, the opportunity to share common experiences and concerns. A similar weekend is planned for next spring in Poughkeepsie, New York. For more information or to attend, write to Daughters of Survivors, c/o *GCN*, 167 Tremont St., 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111.

— Kim Westheimer

free workshops at women's school

CAMBRIDGE, MA — The Women's School, which operates out of the Women's Center in Cambridge, is offering a weekend of free workshops beginning Friday evening, November 15, through Sunday afternoon, November 17. Workshops will be held on topics as varied as women and poverty and women's view of utopia. Other offerings include graffiti writing, networking in the workplace, massage, and writing. The Women's Center is located at 46 Pleasant St. in Cambridge. Registration will be held at the workshops and childcare is available. For further information contact 354-8807.

— Christine Guilfooy

black lesbian feminist support group

BOSTON — A Black lesbian feminist support group with particular interest in creative arts, science, education, health, spirituality, and African history or culture is forming in the greater Boston area. Women of all ages are welcome and older women are particularly encouraged to join. Confidential environment. Call 491-6851 for more information.

— Stephanie Poggi

paraguay's twin sins: homosexuality and communism

ASUNCION, Paraguay — Upon his return to Paraguay after receiving a journalism award in New York, the publisher of an anti-junta newspaper, now suspended, was queerbaited by the military government here and interrogated by police. According to the Boston *Globe*, in a news report on the state-run radio station, *ABC Color* publisher Aldo Zuccolillo was mockingly congratulated for receiving the Maria Moors Cabot journalism prize from "the association of homosexual Latin American journalists." The radio report also implied that Zuccolillo has contracted AIDS.

"In Paraguay the two greatest sins are communism and homosexuality. They can't accuse me of the first, so they stoop to personal insults," Zuccolillo retorted.

The day after he returned to Asuncion, Zuccolillo was held for six hours by Paraguay police, who interrogated him about his acceptance speech in which he criticized the suspension of free speech in Paraguay. In a subsequent interview, Zuccolillo quoted police officials who told the publisher he could leave Paraguay if he wasn't happy with the government. "I answered quietly that I would continue to exercise my free expression guaranteed by the constitution," he replied.

Although freedom of the press is ostensibly protected, *ABC Color* was shut down in March 1984 under a law prohibiting the press from promoting "hatred among Paraguayans," class struggle, or violence.

— Gordon Gottlieb

Harassment of youth by New York Police, D.A.s at issue

Suit Charges Coercion in Sex Probe Case

By Sib Connor

NEW YORK — In a case which is perhaps the first of its kind, a gay man, two women, their two sons, and six other youths, ranging in age from 11 to 18 years, have filed a federal civil rights suit charging Manhattan South precinct officer Robert Maginnis, Bronx Assistant District Attorney Marianne Jennings, and other state and city officials with harassment and denial of first amendment rights.

Immediately after the suit was filed, Federal Judge Gerard Goettel issued a protection order to safeguard the identities of the youths and the women. They may be referred to by their initials only.

The federal suit filed on March 25 follows a January criminal court grand jury indictment of the gay man, Ed Bagarozzy, for allegedly engaging in sex with the eight youths. The grand jury found Bagarozzy guilty after two of the youths testified that they had had sex with Bagarozzy, the other six maintaining that they had never had sex with Bagarozzy.

However, on an April 30 New York Independent Network News (INN) broadcast, the two youths,

identified as D.M. and M.O., recanted their grand jury testimony and claimed that they were coerced into lying by threats from Maginnis and Jennings.

According to Bagarozzy, the two youths were repeatedly harassed by officer Maginnis. Bagarozzy said that D.M. was taken from school approximately thirteen times for up to five hours at a time without the knowledge of his parents. During the interrogations, Bagarozzy claims that D.M. was repeatedly threatened by Maginnis with arrest and incarceration in a juvenile detention center, and that the other seven youths received similar threats.

According to Bagarozzy, during the INN broadcast, Jennings denied using coercive techniques on the boys, but could not comment on tactics used by the police. Also during the telecast, officer Maginnis admitted interrogating the youths without their parents' knowledge.

Marianne Jennings and Robert Maginnis could not be reached for comment. The public relations spokesperson for the Bronx D.A.'s office refused to speak to

GCN.

On October 1, Federal Court Judge Goettel dismissed the civil rights case. His opinion stated that since the criminal court case against Bagarozzy has not been tried, "there is no basis for entertaining this complaint." The opinion further stated that "even an acquittal [at the criminal court level] would not establish a civil rights violation unless he [Bagarozzy] can demonstrate that the prosecution was instituted in bad faith, without hope of obtaining a conviction."

Ed Federowicz, a prisoner at the state prison in Rahway, New Jersey who is doing the legal research and writing for Bagarozzy, said that the judge's opinion exposed his "prejudicial mindset." On behalf of Bagarozzy et. al, Federowicz has filed a motion for reconsideration and a motion for a new judge and trial.

Federowicz said that the criminal case against Bagarozzy is "very, very common," but added that "no one has ever stood up before [to fight the state]." Federowicz noted that no complaint had been filed against

Bagarozzy and that the police began harassing the youths of their own accord. "Since he [Bagarozzy] had pleaded guilty before [to charges in 1981 of second degree sodomy], someone figured that he would [plead] again." Federowicz said the youths had told their parents about Bagarozzy and that the parents had met Bagarozzy.

Bagarozzy claims that the 1981 indictment was similar to the present case. At that time, a 14-year-old boy testified that he had had sex with Bagarozzy. Bagarozzy said that he plea-bargained "under pressure" and received a suspended sentence. He told GCN that the

boy now claims that he was forced to lie under the force of police threats and harassments.

On November 8, as GCN goes to press, Federal Court Judge Goettel will decide whether or not to remove himself from the case based on the motions for reconsideration and recusal. The criminal court trial is set for November 16. Federowicz said that the trial will probably be postponed. "All of the prosecution's witnesses in the criminal case are suing the prosecution in the federal case," Federowicz said.

— filed from Boston

Police Trash Loft

Continued from page 1



Susan Bernstein

When the police got done with the Loft...

Boston Elections

Continued from page 1

gressive incumbents were at-large city council challengers Michael Kane and Willie Mae Allen. Both Allen and Kane had been endorsed by a variety of progressive groups, including BLGPA, the Rainbow Coalition, Mass Tenants Organization and Mass Fair Share. Each candidate was among the top three vote-getters in six precincts in Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and the South End, but neither candidate garnered enough citywide support to yield a victory.

Kane's campaign was marked by discussion of means to acquire more affordable housing both for tenants and for low-to-moderate-income home-owners. Kane is confident that his focus on housing needs was beneficial to his campaign and served to force other candidates to address the lack of affordable housing in Boston. "We did very well for a first-time challenger," said Kane. "I feel proud about the way we raised issues and framed the debate, especially in light of gay-baiting and red-baiting used against us."

Kane said he would consider running for office in the next city council race in 1987, but added that he had no definite plans.

Spirits were high at Scondras' victory party in Kenmore Square. Speaking to a jubilant crowd of over 200 supporters, Scondras mixed humor with passion. "I met my opponent [Judy Porteus] in front of the library," he joked. "She said it was incumbent weather. I said it was inclement. She was right."

On a more serious note, Scondras attributed his victory to the power of diverse groups of people working together. "We are taking a stand, sending out a simple message — this city belongs to us. No issue is more important than making sure that each of us is treated with respect." He portrayed his victory as a clear warning to those in the city who advocate clinging to the norms of classism, racism, anti-Semitism, sexism, and homophobia.

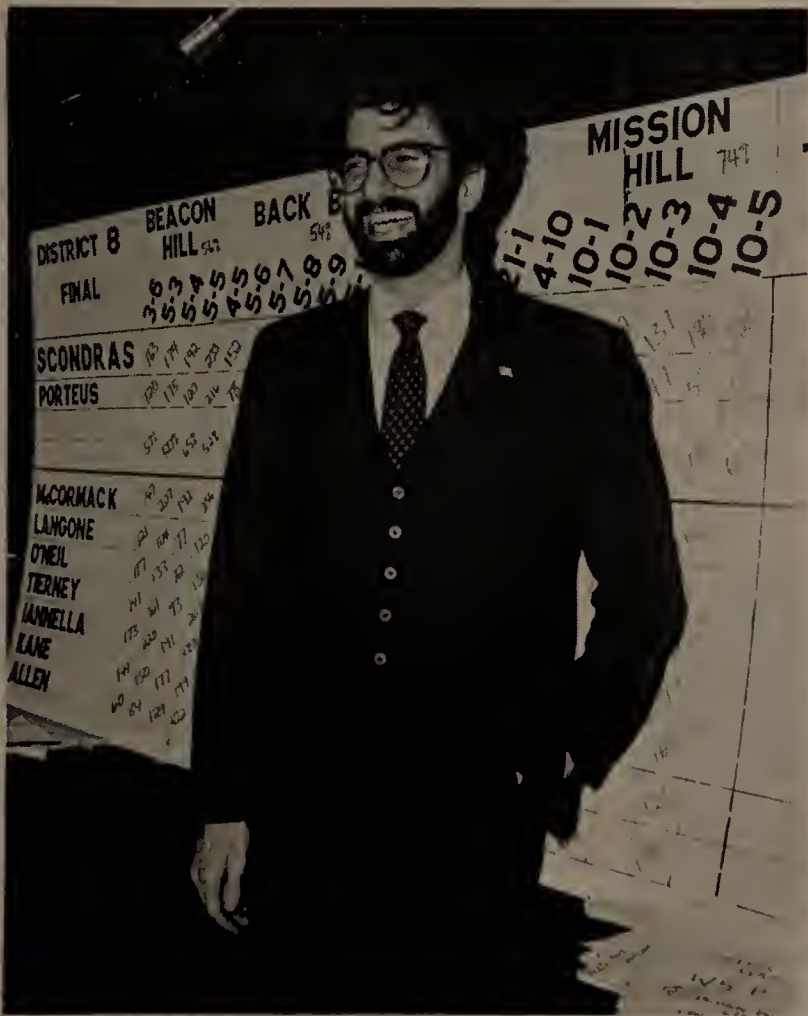
While Scondras viewed his track record as a substantial component of his victory, he also stressed that the need for safe, affordable housing was the issue that brought people to the polls. He vowed to continue to focus on housing problems due to condominium conversion and to make AIDS fun-

ding a priority.

In the Boston School Committee race, Jean McGuire, a BLGPA- and Rainbow Coalition-endorsed incumbent, and an outspoken opponent of Dukakis' foster care policy, won by a comfortable margin. McGuire has spoken at a number of events in support of lesbian and gay activism against the current foster care policy. McGuire is also in favor of introducing positive role models of lesbians and gay men into the school system through use of alter-

progressive candidates for school committee, including David King, on the grounds they were endorsed by *The Daily World*, a Communist paper, and BLGPA. Among those targeted in the report in addition to King were incumbents Jean McGuire and John O'Bryant. (See GCN, Vol. 13, No. 15.)

In the only ousting of an incumbent, Juanita Wade, also endorsed by BLGPA, beat incumbent Grace Romero by more than a 3-1 margin. Wade, an active member of the Rainbow Coalition, also



Ellen Shub

Scondras at victory party, November 5, Boston

native literature.

Also retaining his school committee seat was John O'Bryant, a BLGPA- and Rainbow Coalition-endorsed candidate.

David King, also endorsed for school committee by BLGPA and the Rainbow Coalition, lost to Joseph Casper. Casper has recently been reprimanded by other committee members for remarks that were generally perceived as racist, as well as for jokes that he has made in public about AIDS. On October 8, Casper issued a report in an attempt to discredit several

supports the addition of literature about lesbians and gay men into the school curriculum.

As GCN goes to press, the results from the Cambridge elections are not yet available. The fate of the Dworkin/McKinnon anti-pornography ordinance will not be known until Saturday, according to the Cambridge Election Commission. The time-lapse between voting and the compilation of results is due to an extremely complicated paper-ballot voting system used by the city of Cambridge.

was ordering the raids and why they were being ordered. Dotterman said those questions remained unanswered.

The Loft has a six-year history of raids by the police. Loft owners say the the raids have occurred because the club serves Black and gay people and because the club is located only a stone's throw from Boston Police Headquarters. Dotterman called the club a "boil on the ass of the police," and called the raids a "coordinated effort on the part of the police to harass the Loft out of business."

Dotterman said if the police were interested only in law enforcement, they would be raiding other after-hours clubs as well. He suggested the police begin by raiding the Silver Shield, an after-hours club for off-duty police. The Silver Shield made headlines recently when a woman who had been arrested for prostitution was taken to that club where she says she was raped. The matter is still under investigation.

Police claim the Loft is operating without an entertainment license and sells liquor illegally. Although Evans implied the club needs an entertainment license, Suffolk County Superior Court Justice Samuel Adams ruled in 1979 that the club does not need a license for entertainment.

Police also allege that liquor is sold illegally at the club. However, the Loft claims that liquor is given away in a private residence above the Loft. Patrons familiar with the club agree the liquor is complimentary. Patrons are asked to tip the servers.

Loft officials said they obtained a preliminary injunction four weeks ago which would "prevent the police from entering illegally," that is, without a valid search war-

rant. Marino says the affidavits upon which the police based the latest warrant were flimsy. Loft officials say the police obtained affidavits from three people who said they saw liquor sold on the premises. But they say two of these people have since disavowed the statements attributed to them and have signed statements saying liquor is not sold on the premises.

Marino said the police are disregarding the law by getting warrants based on insufficient evidence and by bringing charges which do not hold up in court. He said the raids on the club have a chilling effect on the patrons who wish to gather there. He also questioned the legality of forcing the patrons to leave the club when the police believe they have found violations. He said while police may stop the violations, they cannot force people to leave.

Although members of the defense committee say they believe police are harassing the Loft because of the clientele, they did not hear any specific racial or gay slurs during the most recent raids. However, Loft officials say they have heard such comments from individual officers.

Questions about the safety of the building have also been raised, although Loft spokespersons said they were asked to make modifications by building inspectors last December, which they did. According to Loft personnel, the building has since passed inspection. "We have no problems with the fire department or the building department," they said.

The Loft will remain closed until equipment is returned and repairs are made. Marino said the club is considering legal actions, both civil and criminal, but did not wish to comment further.

Community Voices

GCN welcomes letters to the editor. If possible, they should be TYPED and DOUBLESPOCED, and where possible limited to five typed pages. They should be sent to: Community Voices, GCN, 167 Tremont St. #5, Boston, MA 02111.

state workers speak out

Dear GCN:

Gay and lesbian state workers have launched a campaign to express to Gov. Michael Dukakis their objections to the recent foster care policy implemented by the Department of Social Services. In the campaign, gay and lesbian state workers are being asked to sign a letter penned by a state worker to the governor explaining the difficulties in working for an administration which has so maligned gay and lesbian workers.

Letters will be collected and then formally presented to the governor at a press conference to be held at the end of November during a week of activities to protest the foster care policy.

Copies of the letter may be obtained by calling 576-6788. Copies of the letter (text below) may be sent to the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee, PO Box 225, Somerville, MA 02144. Gay and lesbian state workers are invited to sign the letter with a pseudonym, but are asked to include the department or agency with which they work.

Sincerely,
Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee
Somerville, MA

(Below is the text of the letter.)

Dear Governor Dukakis:

The recent state policy which virtually excludes gay men and lesbians from serving the state as foster parents puts gay and lesbian state workers in a quandary. Many of us view ourselves as idealists; we are perceived in this way by advocates on the outside, often the harshest critics of state policies. We function frequently as "team players" for the administration, expressing our personal concern and compassion for people in an attempt to dispel the commonly held belief that state government is a lumbering monster with no regard for the individual. That we are willing to believe in the rationale behind state policies influences others to believe — the more skeptical clients, the advocates, the everyday citizens and voters who get involved in a variety of issues.

In order to function as spokespeople for the state, we tell ourselves: "Someone must work on the inside. Someone must formulate policies that are *responsive* to people's needs, not just expedient for the administrators and the politicians." We are among the best and the brightest. State government, and this Administration in particular, is indebted to us.

While we are well-educated and well-trained, what is most unusual about us is that we are gay men and lesbians. Ordinarily, our clients and co-workers do not know that we are gay and lesbian, because we do not broadcast it. Nevertheless, we felt perhaps *most* qualified to work in state government because we understand what it means to be shut out.

One day, a new policy is announced, appearing like a stranger pivoting on the sidewalk to punch each of us in the stomach. The news is everywhere: gay people are not fit to be foster parents; gay people cannot provide normal homes; gay people don't lead normal lives. You, as Governor, act as though you have never met a gay person. If you, as an elected leader, perpetuate these myths, who will speak up for us now?

Many of us have considered taking foster children into our homes. We know that the state faces a severe shortage of appropriate homes. We have the qualifications. We know how the system works. Most of all, we could give foster children love, patience, and respect, because we, too, have experienced not being normal.

But now, our applications are not welcome. You have ignored the advice of numerous psychologists and social workers by issuing a policy that, by reason of sexual orientation or marital status, puts gay and single people last on a list of preferred home situations. You have issued a policy that is unlikely to consider each applicant on his or her individual merits and unlikely to consider the needs of children on an individual basis. The state *is* a lumbering monster.

We are demoralized. For those gay men and lesbians who continue to work for your administration, it is with a profound sense of disappointment, anger, and loss of belief that you are a Governor deserving of our creative energies and talents. **WE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO RESCIND YOUR POLICY.**

Sincerely,

N a m e

Agency or Department

prison poetry

Dear GCN:

Hello, from the World Prison Poetry Center in New Haven. I am not sure if you are aware of our group, but we are aware of you and the work you do through your publication.

We are the core of a worldwide network of prison poets. We write, publish, and hold judgments of material sent to us. Our greatest desire is the unification of men and women, blacks and whites, straights and gays, through our sharing of words.

The group is predominantly straight, therefore we lack a broader view and outlook on certain things that affect all men and women. We also lack the views of our sisters who are incarcerated.

We know that your paper reaches hundreds of institutions for men and women and all types of people. We would like to send you more info about our group if you are interested. We are a non-profit organization and are interested in obtaining a subscription to your paper.

We are seeking to better ourselves and educate those around us. We will be looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Wm. E. Barnes Jr.
World Prison Poetry Center
245 Whalley Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511

can't ignore his heroism

Dear GCN:

In re the October 26 Speaking Out column, "Spider Woman Kiss-off," what I think contributor Kenneth Hale-Wehmann missed was Luis Molina's striking defiance of both officialdom and stereotype. Molina appears to be no more than a product of a macho society that dictates that a man attracted to other men really wants to be a woman. Molina fulfills this expectation by affecting drag, calling his getting fucked "tak[ing] it like a woman" and his male genitals an "accident," and embracing the romantic while ignoring the fascist aspects of an old film. But the bravery and strength he evinces are certainly not part of that stereotype.

Molina is clever and daring enough to defy and make fools of a dangerous prison administration that cannot believe he is anything other than effete and pliable. He leads the bureaucrats to think he is gathering political information from Valentin when he is doing no such thing. Further stalling his captors, determined to cheat fate for as long as he can, he even extracts special favors from them, convincing them that gourmet groceries are the key to making Valentin talk. Molina finds in himself a strength that likely surprises even him when he contacts Valentin's colleagues in the resistance despite the danger he correctly anticipates.

That Molina takes risks because of his attraction to Valentin and not to his politics cannot be denied. But it would be wrong to dismiss Molina for his sexism and ignore his heroism.

Sincerely,
Bruce-Michael Gelbert
Brooklyn, NY

queerbashed on the (serene) esplanade

Dear GCN:

The serene, the beautiful Esplanade park. Ever delightful to the eye and the spirit. Whether seen beneath the noon-day sun or in evening's light. What a pleasure! a joy! What a danger!!

One lovely evening in August I was brutally beaten by a gang of men — probably fag-haters — who left me bleeding with a broken jaw and no billfold. Thanks to the kindness of a passing brother I was aided all the way to the hospital.

After hospitalization and major surgery, I am now mending both physically and mentally (thanks to therapy). Soon I'll begin the process of restoring my teeth, most of which were knocked out by my assailants.

Court proceedings in my case began recently against an accused man. I am happy to report that I have been treated congenially and sympathetically by the MDC police, the District Attorney's office (Boston Municipal Court) and Victim-Witness Assistance (same court).

I am not happy to report that there have been five more victims on the Esplanade since August. This information was related to me by the MDC police on October 6. The MDC police would welcome any information which would assist them in prosecuting any of these cases.

On August 20 I experienced physical violence personally for the first time in my life. Before that I lived in a kind of detached state, seemingly oblivious to what man can do to his fellow man. The shock of awareness continues to resound within me.

I urge GCN's readership to acknowledge the realities of the Esplanade. Be careful. Be wise.

Sincerely,
Edwin
Boston, MA

internal differences

Dear GCN:

As members of the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee (GLDC), we commend GCN for addressing the controversy surrounding Governor Dukakis' presence at the AIDS Action Committee's benefit auction at City Hall in your October 5th issue. There is significant controversy within the gay/lesbian community around the Governor, whether and how to hold him accountable for the formulation of the homophobic DSS foster care policy, when he also appears to have lent support to some gay issues. GCN's coverage of this dilemma was fair reporting of a deep conflict within our community, and as the article was published within a context that affirms our common ground, it did not present political divisions in the potentially destructive way the non-gay media might have.

The question of how to contend with Governor Dukakis' featured role at the AIDS Auction had prompted a meeting between representatives of GLDC and other gay/lesbian organizations, especially those involved in the auction. While we supported the compromise that was worked out when the conflict surfaced just days before the auction, there are several issues that we feel need further discussion. Part of the agreement reached at that meeting was that a statement discussing the process of reaching the compromise should be sent to the gay press. Thus Kevin Cathcart and Ray Gottwald's letter appeared in GCN on October 12th and in the October 17th-23rd issue of Bay Windows. We are writing this addition to Kevin and Ray's letter since the GLDC wasn't consulted in the writing of it, and we think it bypassed some of the more interesting and disturbing aspects of the meeting that we believe need to be aired, both here and in a community debate.

Firstly, the proposal from the GLDC that a leaflet pointing to Dukakis' role in fueling anti-gay sentiment be distributed to those attending the auction met with outrage from some organizers of the event. While we argued that homophobia was a common underpinning to both the DSS policy and the extraordinary delays in AIDS funding and services, some Auction organizers responded that AIDS was a medical issue and that politics had no place at the auction. What is significant and disturbing about this disagreement is that some gay men and lesbians saw the GLDC proposal for leafletting as creating splits in the gay/lesbian community, not the presence of Dukakis at the auction or his inconsistent and contradictory stands on gay issues. The compromise reached on this issue was that Larry Kessler agreed to rework his speech and draw out the links between homophobia and the response to AIDS, although he did not extend those links to include the foster care policy.

Secondly, the GLDC assumed that our common ground is rooted in our commitment to expose and attack homophobia in whatever form it takes. Yet others saw each issue — in this case foster care, the Gay Rights Bill, and AIDS — as quite distinct and able to be addressed in and of itself. This set up a dynamic where representatives attempted to barter that *they* would wear our Foster Equality buttons in exchange for GLDC agreeing not to leaflet.

This meeting pointed out an ongoing conflict over image, over how we present a public face. There have always been differences around image within our community, with some activists pursuing inside alliances with electoral politicians, while others, such as the GLDC, have chosen a more confrontational style, including demonstrations, sit-ins, street theater, etc. In the past we have valued other strategies for political change by members of the gay/lesbian community, and have received support for our actions, but there has always existed a tension. With the AIDS auction and the vote on the Gay Rights bill happening within very close proximity, the underlying tensions came to the surface.

For the GLDC the concern is with changing public consciousness and building an opposition movement. How do we dislodge the norms of traditional sexuality and proper families embodied in Dukakis' foster care policy and thereby assert the full humanity of lesbians and gay men? These questions inform our sense of strategy. The strategy of building a grassroots oppositional movement is in tension with activists who wish favors and approval from those in power. This tension has characterized the history of gay politics. The legacy from the Mattachine Society haunts us more than ever. As Harry Hay describes the conflict in the face of a growing right wing in the 1950s, "The Mattachine after 1953 was primarily concerned with legal change, with being seen as respectable — rather than self-respecting. They wanted to be dignified by professional 'authorities' and prestigious people, rather than by the more compelling dignity of group worth."

The urgency of the AIDS issue makes us all take pause. Yet it is crucial to separate out what strategy is particular to the immediacy of this issue, and what is in fact due to very different goals for the lesbian and gay movement. In order for us to build a unified gay and lesbian movement we need to look carefully and critically at our differences. The meetings prior to the AIDS auction were not the resolution of these conflicts, but an opening up of dialogue around our differences.

Sincerely,

Marla Erlen Sarah Holmes
Cathy Hoffman Cambridge, MA

GayCommunityNews

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership. The paper is published weekly (except a week in December and a week in August) by the Bromfield Street Education Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Our office is located at 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111. (617) 426-4469.

Second-class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Annual subscription rate is \$29. ISSN: 0147-0728.

Member New England Press Association, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, COSMEP member.

GCN is included in the Alternative Press Index, published quarterly by the Alternative Press Center, Inc., Box 7229, Baltimore, MD 21218.

Volumes 1-12 of GCN are available on microfilm for \$30/volume. Write GCN/Microfilm for more information.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Gay Community News, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl. Boston, MA 02111.

Speaking Out

Gentrification: Symbol of a Society with no Conscience

By John Smith

Gentrification. It's just a word, but a word loaded with dynamite. It is a word wearing two masks, and like most euphemisms, it means different things to different people.

Gentrification. Say it slowly for the word has a sound and a mental image all its own. I hear the pounding hooves of many horses, and then I see hordes of white men upon these horses dressed in eighteenth century garb, richly dressed at that. They are coming to take whatever force and money will allow. In other words, they take it all.

Gentrification. Now I see white males, some of them gay, in San Francisco, Philadelphia, Miami, anywhere in any city. They are smartly attired and they carry a little black book as they roam minority communities asking questions. They seem inordinately interested in the price of things, particularly buildings.

Gentrification. Now I see a minority mother, concern shows on her face. "No," she does not know who owns the building. She pays her rent to "Mr. Tom." It is all she cares to know.

Gentrification. I see a tome of laws handsomely bound in leather. The gentry, the propertied class, these laws are designed to protect them. I see the minority mother tell her child not to fret, for here in the freest country in the whole free world we have laws, fair to all. I can not see her face when she begins to realize that just as in the eighteenth century, the laws are silent. Just as it was long ago, what is looked upon and coveted, is now seized.

Gentrification. I see Philadelphia in the 1970s. I see white gay males, all friends of mine, roaming about minority communities looking for the next neighborhood that will "catch on." I see them buying multi-family dwellings, evicting the occupants, and moving on. They painstakingly restore the building to its original splendor. They are proud of their abilities as incipient developers. I see them sell the building for a hefty profit. They admire their business acumen, their ability to spot a bargain, and their artistic ability. They expect you to do likewise.

Gentrification. I see a thousand bestsellers telling you how to become rich in real estate with nothing down. I hear the American dream; "with a few smarts you too will be rich." They address all problems of buying and selling except what to do with the poor who are displaced. After all, it's not your fault these people are poor. You are smart and productive. The poor are neither.

Gentrification. I now see happy politicians. The tax base has been augmented, crime has abated and people walk the streets at night. The schools are improved, vandalism is down, everybody is happy. The lower and middle classes now have a home which they could not have otherwise afforded. The politicians are beaming.

Gentrification. I see a smiling banker who will make ten times the amount he loans. New shops have come, chic plant shops here, an antique store there. The banker is very, very happy.

Gentrification. I see the displaced poor come back to look at the wonders in the neighborhood where they lived for years. They have heard that it is better. They agree it is different, not necessarily better. I see the poor wonder why they always gentrify stable neighborhoods. Why don't they make the neighborhoods around 20th and Diamond streets "better"?

Gentrification is the destruction of neighborhoods for the sake of a dollar, or rather millions of them. Gentrification is pitting the have-nots against the haves and making a fortune doing it. Gentrification is the callous disregard for the plight of the poor. Gentrification is the symbol of our society's refusal to plan for the housing needs of all its citizens. Gentrification is the symbol of a society where the dollar is king and people of little value. Gentrification is the symbol of cities which refuse to enact strong rent-control laws and where the landlord is king. Gentrification is the symbol of a society with no conscience.

John Smith is the pseudonym of a reader in Florida.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111

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Design Director (available on or before January 1986): Establish overall design of the paper, and oversee the layout and proofreading functions on production night. Design (or assign to volunteer artists) front cover, centerspread artwork/layout, and book supplement graphics, as well as promotional brochures, leaflets, etc. *Qualifications:* Strong graphic design/art skills. Familiarity with type specifications, knowledge of printing techniques and previous related experience preferred.

All positions require a commitment to gay/lesbian liberation, feminism, anti-racist politics, and the collective decision-making process.

Salary/Benefits: \$150/week and fully paid health and life insurance, sick time and three weeks' paid vacation. Each position offers the staff member responsibility for his/her own job, with some flexible hours and ample room for innovation.

To apply, please send resume and cover letter immediately to: GCN Search Committee, *Gay Community News*, 167 Tremont Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111.

Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

Defense Committee Update

Some important events ahead: The **Duke Watch** will sponsor an action at a private home on Beacon Hill on Tuesday, November 12 at 5:30 p.m.... New people are encouraged to attend a **community coordinating** meeting on Wednesday, November 13 at 7 p.m.... And a **Day of Protest** will be held at the State House on Monday, November 25 to commemorate passage of the anti-gay and -lesbian foster care policy. For details about these events, call the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee at 628-6007. For information about "Foster Equality" buttons and T-shirts, write GLDC, PO Box 225, Somerville, MA 02144.

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Mail order tickets until Nov. 12 from: GCN/BMS, 167 Tremont St., #5, Boston, MA 02111.

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(Reprinted from Real Paper Best of Boston Fall, 1980)

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Pentagon to Test Personnel

Continued from page 1

vicemember is gay or an intravenous drug user. Wyro said, however, that an attempt is being made to insure that information gathered for medical reasons be restricted to as few people as possible. He did not say what that attempt might be, and admitted that there is ultimately no confidentiality between a member of the armed forces and the military medical personnel.

Under the policy as announced in the memo, however, military personnel who reveal that they are gay or intravenous drug users in the process of HTLV-III counseling will be given an administrative discharge characterized as being "at the convenience of the government." This discharge must be initiated by medical personnel, processed by a board of officers, and ultimately approved by the secretary of the military branch. Generally, homosexuality is considered "incompatible with

military service," and people may be discharged on the grounds they are gay or lesbian.

Many gay and anti-military activists question the reasons the military may have for testing all personnel, and the assurances that information will be kept as confidential as possible. Joe Schuman, a gay military counselor and lawyer, said, "If the test is going to be a one-shot deal, it's not well adapted to the purpose of preventing the spread of the disease. If the military were really concerned with people becoming exposed, they would test people periodically, for people become exposed as time goes on." Schuman also said he believes the military may have other reasons for HTLV-III antibody testing: "They might not be trying to do what they say they're trying to do. One in ten, perhaps one in twenty of the people who are antibody-positive go on to develop AIDS.

But, at least preliminarily, it looks like one in four to one in two of adult gay men may come back antibody-positive. So whereas it's a bad test for who will get AIDS, it's a fair test of who is gay."

Schuman welcomes the attempt by the government to restrict access to medical files, but said, "I would not rely on that suggestive prospect. It's no promise that things will be confidential, and they could just as easily bind themselves to confidentiality as say 'we'll try.'" He went on to say that "the number-one loyalty of military medical personnel is to the command. What you tell your doctor ends up in your file. I suggest that service people who test positive should have outside medical and legal help, and that you shouldn't answer questions to military personnel without talking to a civilian counselor first."

— filed from Boston

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Gay/Lesbian History in a Nutshell

By Mickey Budnick

Nearly 60 people turned out at Northeastern University's Snell Hall on Thursday, October 17 to hear University of North Carolina historian Dr. John D'Emilio speak on "The Making of a Homosexual Minority."

The seminar, sponsored by the Northeastern University Sexual Preference Coalition, was a summary of D'Emilio's research on the emergence of a defined gay and lesbian subculture in the United States. His work culminated in the publication of *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities* in 1983.

"In 1974, the term 'Gay History' seemed a contradiction. Silence, invisibility, and isolation were what the liberationists saw as our past," D'Emilio commented in his opening remarks.

D'Emilio noted that the 1969 Stonewall riots, which "exploded the consciousness of gay men and lesbians" and is viewed as the birth of the modern gay liberation movement, had not erupted from a vacuum. Although it was primarily underground, an intricate gay minority had been defining and organizing itself throughout the course of the decades preceding Stonewall.

D'Emilio became interested in writing his dissertation on gay history while a graduate student in New York City. He concluded that it should be possible to uncover the hidden origins of the gay liberation movement. With understandable trepidation, he approached his (straight) thesis advisor with his proposal. His advisor surprisingly replied, "Great idea! But don't you think you should narrow your topic?"

D'Emilio's initial investigations were frustrating; pseudonyms hampered the possibilities of identifying and interviewing many early organizers. Gradually, however, D'Emilio was able to uncover a wealth of information in the records and newsletters of the ear-

ly Mattachine Society, one of the first of the "homophile" organizations that emerged during the 1950s.

"Gay politics [in the U.S.] did not start with Stonewall. Stretching back to the 1950s, [the homophile movement] had made impressive gains. They established the right to publish material, meet publicly, brought the first court challenges, and established dialogue with professionals."

[The epidemic] is creating new levels of organization and response within the gay community.

Most significantly, says D'Emilio, the early homophile movement established gay men and lesbians as an oppressed minority.

"Blacks, workers, women had a history of resistance in the United States. Why not gays and lesbian? Why was it only in 1950 that an organized movement began to develop?" asked D'Emilio.

D'Emilio directed the majority of his 90-minute talk to the social climates that facilitated or hindered emergence of a sense of gay identity and community. He paused initially to clarify his working definition of what it means to develop a gay identity. "[There must be] strong sexual or emotional attachment to the same sex, and a recognition that this attraction sets you apart. This motivates you to act by consciously searching out people like you. Finally, you construct personal relationships that revolve around your sexual identity."

In a society that is dominated by heterosexual social constructs, the appearance of gay identity did not come easily. "[In Colonial

America] there was no social space for constructing a way of life. The word 'homosexual' doesn't exist. The family was the structure which was essential for survival. The family produced the necessities of life. High fertility was necessary for survival-for-labor. There were laws against being single!"

In the late nineteenth century, there began to appear evidence in medical journals of the existence of homosexuals. The doctors

claimed to be "discovering" homosexuality and defined it as a "condition." After reviewing the documents of the period, D'Emilio concluded that the 1880s-1890s provided the first evidence that suggested the emergence of a society of sexual "deviants." D'Emilio claims that the rise of an industrial, capitalist society was a factor in the timing of this emergence.

"In a free labor system, as opposed to a cooperative, family/agricultural society, as individuals can detach themselves from the family. Capitalism made it possible for a sexual and emotional desire to evolve into a homosexual society." However, as capitalism developed, the sexist division of labor remained, resulting in less opportunity for lesbians to explore the same freedoms as their male counterparts.

World War II created an entirely unique situation. It took 12 million people, some of whom already had an emerging sense of their identity, out of their homes and placed them in sex-segregated

environments. Many tended not to return to the small towns of their childhood and instead settled in urban areas where they began to form a social group.

Throughout the 1950s, the social and political climate continued to instill a sense of community among gays and lesbians. Soon after the war, the Kinsey reports were published, and the figures on the prevalence of homosexual behavior made isolated gays and lesbians feel much less alone in their desires. The advent of McCarthyism saw more people losing their jobs for allegedly being homosexual than for being communists. Police harassment was on the rise.

"Suddenly the gay community was having the collective experience of suffering," said D'Emilio. The Mattachine and Daughters of Bilitis came into organization with a new message: this treatment of gays and lesbians was undeserved. The 1960s tide of civil-rights and anti-war civil disobedience led to the first, small organized gay and lesbian pro-

more actively shape social life. We also must confront that the history of sexuality in America is a story of oppression, power, and politics. Sex in American society has existed as a weapon of social control, and therefore has been made political."

D'Emilio tended to speak of the gay and lesbian liberation movement in terms of a continuous progression of successes, several times referring to the impressive gains made "from Stonewall to the present time." During the question-and-answer period, he was given the opportunity to comment on the realities of the current status of the gay liberation movement, which is faced with a strong, anti-gay backlash due at least in part to the AIDS epidemic.

"[The anti-gay backlash and the rise of the far right] is evidence of the power and success of the gay liberation movement. It would not exist if the gay movement had not been so successful. The homophobic hostility must have been latent; AIDS can tap this latent hostility. The important thing

By the time of the Stonewall riots, large numbers of gays and lesbians had already begun to view themselves differently.

tests. "By the time of the Stonewall riots, large numbers of gays and lesbians had already begun to view themselves differently."

In concluding his talk, D'Emilio commented on the insights he believed could be derived from his work.

"Sexuality must be looked at in historical terms. Human sexuality is malleable, not a fixed biological drive. Sexuality became a significant aspect of social structure; the notion of sexual identity began to

is the response of the gay community. [The epidemic] is creating new levels of organization and response within the gay community."

Northeastern's Sexual Preference Coalition will also present an AIDS forum on November 14.

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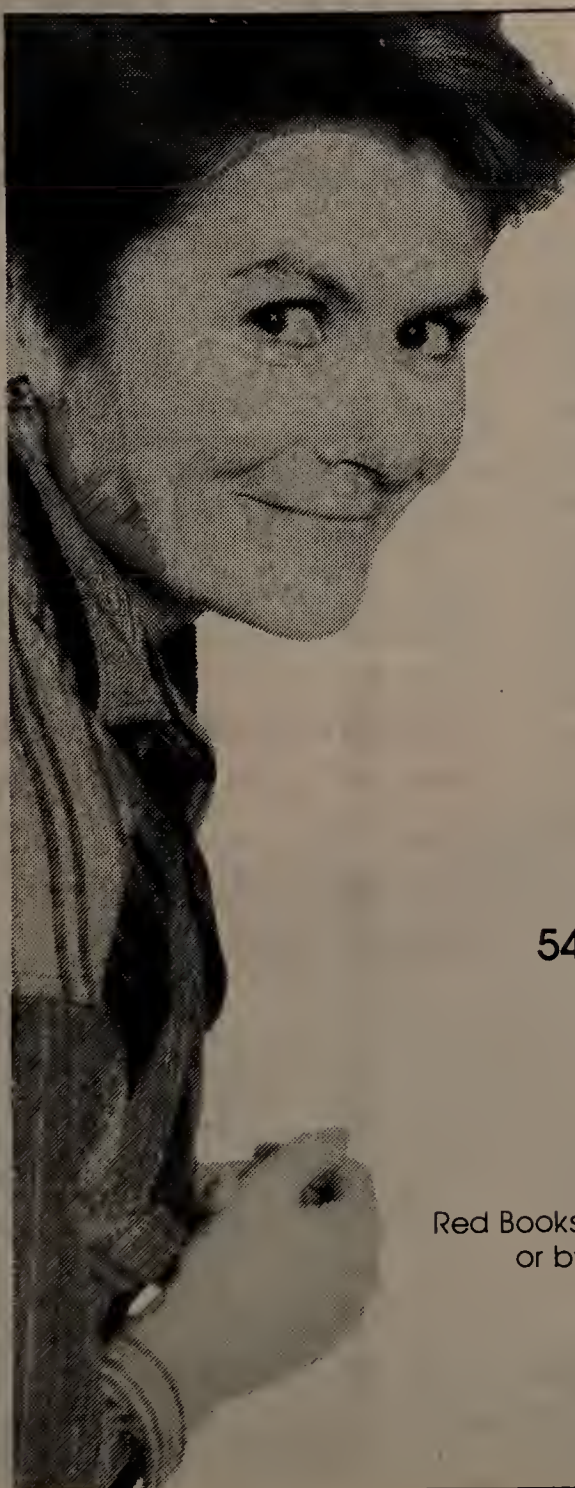
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Colleen McKay

Jan Clausen: Work that Engages the Complexity and Orneriness of the World

by Louise Rice

Jan Clausen is a lesbian, feminist, political activist, and writer. She was a co-founder and co-editor of *Conditions* magazine, and has over the past decade written poetry, prose, and fiction. Among her works are *Mother, Sister, Daughter, Lover*, and her recent novel, *Sinking, Stealing*.

I have been drawn to Jan's writing particularly because it spoke to my experience as a lesbian and as a mother. Children, mothers, and the contradictions they raise for us as lesbians, are highly visible in Jan's writing. She approaches her subjects with humor and insight into their strengths, foibles, and insecurities, whether they are adults or children, politically correct or not. Because I felt an immediate connection to *Sinking, Stealing*, I agreed with my lover and co-parent, Tess Ewing, to interview Jan Clausen for GCN.

Louise: What made you decide to write from the perspective of a "non-biological parent"?

Jan: Parenting has been a big part of my life, for about ten years now. The novel as it came to me was a picture of a woman and a kid sitting in a greasy spoon somewhere. The story spun itself around that, and turned into the story of a woman who is a parent to a child to whom she has no legal relationship. It filled itself in with a lot of details from my own life, but also a lot of imagination about what my own life as a "Flommie" — to use the word that Ericka uses in the book — might have been under other circumstances.

Louise: Are you a lot like Josie?

Jan: Not specifically, but in many of the perceptions, yes.

Louise: The other half of that question was, how much are you like Ericka? I was impressed with how real her voice was. She sounded just like a ten-year-old.

Jan: In terms of some of her consciousness, her fantasies, her fears, some was my imagination, and some of it was drawing on feelings I had as a kid. The speech patterns, I picked up from living with a ten-year-old.

Louise: One of the things about the book is the theme of loss: the characters have experienced a terrible loss and don't get to grieve it, because they are struggling to keep each other. This feels like what we are going through all the time. We are struggling to keep what we've got, and we could lose so much more. You had a tension between Ericka's father and his upward mobility, on the one hand, and Josie, on the other, with her "outdated" '60s values.

Toward the end of the '70s there was a fantasy, at least for certain white, predominantly middle-class feminists, that the community was a main thing. I guess that illusion has fallen apart, but maybe it's just as well that it did.

Jan: This very young woman at my work complains that I'm old-fashioned, like the '60s, always protesting. I try to say that it's not old-fashioned: the same old things need to be changed! There is a danger of a certain burnout and cynicism which I experience in my own life, and I hope I manage in the book to convey a tension between cynicism and having enough underlying humor and warmth to keep us going.

Louise: Where do you think feminist writing, feminist literature is at this point?

Jan: I like to think of feminist writing in this country as a lot broader than the work being published by women's presses. I support the women's press movement, but I

think we've gotten into a kind of hothouse. "Precious" is a funny word, but I think it applies, in a political way. I worry that very narrow concepts of what feminist writing is, or could be, or should be, constrict what feminists and lesbians are willing to try to write.

I think sometimes the idea is put out, either explicitly or implicitly by reviewers (or those writing about feminist writing) that what we are supposed to be doing is presenting positive images of women or lesbians, or given ethnic racial or class groups. That's a concept that often comes up in political circles, or in any group that feels (for good reasons) beleaguered by mainstream society. I think this can result in very simplistic notions of what a positive im-

age is. People become afraid to explore their fantasies or their real experiences of actual life.

My writing, and most of the writing that has deep meaning to me, is about the world the way it is. Not that it can't be fantasy, or magical realism, but it somehow engages with the complexity and often the hardness and orneriness of the world.

Tess: It seems to me that the letter to GCN criticizing you for anti-Semitism represents that other view, writing about things the way they ought to be.

Jan: One of the things that letter said was that the depiction of the Jewish father was that he was upwardly mobile and materialistic. I think that the implications are that you

have to pick and choose what you show of the ways things sometimes actually are, because they could be taken the wrong way. And I think I agree with that on some level, that there are certain things one would not choose to depict, even though they may happen in real life. For me, it's a question of balance and proportion. One of the things that I tried to do was show a range of Jewish characters with different values, different lifestyles, doing different things, because that's the way things are. You can argue about how well I did that in the book. I hope the memory of Rhea and the presence of Ericka's grandmother is some kind of counterbalance.

I think the familial relationship of people who are Jewish and people who are not Jewish living in the same household is an important theme of the book, but it certainly was understated. The book is set at the end of the '70s, a time when the general discussion of Jewish identity, and a lot of other identity issues, wasn't nearly as well defined or explicit as it is now. I wanted to deal with it in ways that reflect my own experience — the coming to some more awareness about anti-Semitism, about Jewish

The book is set at the end of the '70s, a time when the general discussion of Jewish identity, and a lot of other identity issues, wasn't nearly as well defined or explicit as it is now. I wanted to deal with it in ways that reflected my own experience — the coming to some awareness about anti-Semitism, about Jewish life and Jewish issues of somebody who is from the Pacific Northwest — but without addressing it head-on.

life and Jewish issues of somebody who is from the Pacific Northwest — but without addressing it head-on.

This touches on another problem, which is the issue approach to looking at a book: is it about life or is it about being an “x” or a “y,” experiencing “x” or “y” problem? It's a very delicate balance. The raising of identity issues is a very good thing. But it is a danger in fiction to make characters representatives of one particular experience. In my life, I don't want to be a representative of one particular identity or two or four. When I work in CISPES (Committee in Solidarity with People of El Salvador) I don't want to be only seen as a lesbian. I want to be out, I want to be comfortable about who I am, but I don't want to be in a one-dimensional category.

Louise: *Is there anything else you want to say about the criticisms raised in the letter?*

Jan: I feel the question of how a non-Jew deals with helping to raise a Jewish child is certainly an important and sensitive one (and one I've dealt with as an issue in my own life over a period of years now), but I feel Melanie Kaye Kantrowitz's objection to how this is handled in the novel rests on a fundamental misapprehension, since Josie's purpose in “kidnapping” Ericka is not to remove her permanently from the home of her Jewish father, but rather to negotiate an arrangement whereby her own parental relationship to Ericka as well as the father's will be recognized.

Louise: *I was interested in the way you saw us as parents. At times I ask myself how legitimate we really are as parents. We are fighting for the right just to be parents these days, while it's also really a big problem to be parents. It can be hard and it takes me out of my lesbian identity. It's almost impossible to be a mother and a lesbian at the same time. You're one or the other. You are at a school meeting and no one thinks you're a lesbian; and when I do work at GCN, no one can quite get why I can't be available on weekends.*

Jan: Then there is the invisibility of the parent who is not the mother. There are trade-offs. In certain ways, it is definitely easier not to be the mother. But while my lover and I share functional parenting duties, there isn't even a name for what we are.

Louise: *I noticed you were strongly saying you were not the mother in the book. Tess and I had a lot of struggles around that, trying to take equal parenting roles, before we were able to say it just wasn't so. What do you think of the lesbian baby boom?*

Jan: It feels funny to me to be living with a fifteen-year-old, feeling like I'm coming out of the other end of my parenting experience, seeing so many people my own age going into it. I feel ambivalent about it. If people want to have babies, they should have them. Ten years ago most lesbians felt it wasn't an option for them. Now it's possible and that's neat.

At the same time I feel some pangs of abandonment or separation. Either, “where were all you parenting enthusiasts when we were doing this ten years ago and needed support?” or no one's talking about, “gee, it's hard to be a mother and it impinges on your life a lot.” The bottom line is that I've lived as a parent for a long time

now, and for all the things I've liked about it, I'm also looking forward to leading a separate life as not a parent. Part of me feels some dread about the separation from friends who will be plunged into the world of very early childhood and the absorption of it.

Louise: *We're going to hit the streets, and everybody's going to be home with their babies! I do think that has to do with the '80s, that people are seeking out personal solutions to the alienation and hopelessness we see all around us. I think sometimes there is a lot of enthusiasm for babies and little kids and not so much for kids that are in the ages that most of our kids are in most of the time. It's such a short period that they are little. For me as a lesbian, raising two adolescents, I feel pretty alone a lot of the time. While the kids have other kids in their schools that have lesbian mothers, I don't feel a lot of support from that community.*

From the book, I had a real sense that the lesbian community was not in great shape in terms of supporting

Josie. She was left alone in the time she was grieving, and facing the loss of Ericka. I experience that in the way people are dropping away from multi-issue politics, looking for a single focus or issue. Do you think that this is what is happening with the lesbian community, or is it more just a silence?

Jan: I don't know; I feel like we are many different communities. Toward the end of the '70s there was a fantasy, at least, for certain white, predominantly middle-class feminists, that the community was a main thing. I guess that illusion has fallen apart, but maybe it's just as well that it did. I feel personally now drawn to political groups that are multi-issue or take me outside the women's community. I try to come back and get support from friends, but there's not the same equivalence between my com-

I feel ambivalent about [the lesbian baby boom]. The bottom line is that I've lived as a parent for a long time now, and for all the things I've liked about it, I'm also looking forward to leading a separate life as not a parent.

munity as where I do my political work and where I live. As far as a general level of activism, I think maybe things are going on and taking different forms.

Louise: *Do you think of yourself as a political activist or as an artist?*

Jan: I think I experience a certain tension between being an “artist” and being an activist. It comes more natural to me to be struggling with a blank page than to be in a meeting struggling around principles of unity. Political activism is something I do out of a sense of duty or out of a sense that this is another human activity, like brushing your teeth in the morning, that needs to be done, whether

or not it is the most fulfilling thing in your life. But it also gives me something. Interacting with the political community teaches me things about the world and about social structures. It does reinvigorate me in certain ways for writing, too. But often I feel it's not the thing I'm most comfortable with.

Louise: *There's always a tension in GCN over whether we should be covering just gay issues, or Central America, or left politics in general. Do you have anything to say about why it's important for us as lesbians and gays to be involved in a broader range of politics?*

Jan: We live in the world, right? I guess my original kernel of an idea about feminism — when I was real young, before I knew there was feminism, before I knew I was a lesbian — was that somehow I had a right to participate in the world. I had a lot of role definitions put on me that said that I couldn't do this and I couldn't do that, but I was always curious and I always wanted to know what was going on. I wanted to be a part of it. That's how I feel about being a lesbian and how I would hope anybody feels about being gay.

That also carries with it certain obligations. Number one, I hope it's only stating the obvious that gay people are Central Americans, are people of different identities, of all different oppressions. To be an activist about Central America is to involve yourself with something that concerns gay people — but it goes beyond that. I don't think my experience as a lesbian is anywhere near the world's most oppressed experience. I'd feel like a jerk if I didn't feel like it was part of my human duty to be connected to all those other struggles.

Louise: *I like that. I really enjoyed every bit of the scene in Sinking, Stealing where they visit the lesbian separatist commune. I like the fun you had with it. That is one aspect of our culture that started in a good place and has ended up in a totally banal place. It reminded me, as a parent of two sons, of the anti-male feelings that occurred in the early '70s. You appear to reject that feeling that men can't be worked with, and respected.*

Jan: One of the things that has always made me angry about all forms of political correctness, not just in the women's movement, is that the one right way to do things or to think will change in the next five years to something completely different.

Louise: *Anything else you want to say?*

Jan: I know that parenting is a hot issue for a lot of lesbians now, and I am glad the book is getting attention for that. I hope that in the longer term it will also be viewed as a book about a lot of other parts of living as a lesbian. I

hope that won't get lost. I liked what you said in your review about the journey with no place to go being a metaphor for the lesbian experience.

Louise: *It's certainly easier to live in Cambridge, or Berkeley, as a lesbian than in small-town America, with the average American value systems.*

Jan: But what the extremity of the book's situation does is focus you on all the ways you can and do tune out what is difficult in everyday life. When an extreme situation comes along, you realize that, and you see all that is weighing you down.



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Holly Near (above, right), in her concert to benefit Boston Mobilization for Survival on Nov. 2, included a "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" medley in support of people with AIDS.

Odetta (above, left) and Barbara Higbie and Teresa Trull (left) joined the roster of female, feminist and lesbian musicians at the two-day Women's Music Festival in Arlington, Mass., on Oct. 26.

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Georgia Sodomy Case

Continued from page 1

the Supreme Court's ruling on *Doe v Commonwealth's Attorney for City of Richmond* Virginia. The plaintiffs in that case were gay men who argued that Virginia's sodomy law infringed on their rights, including their right to privacy. A district court ruled that the plaintiffs had no standing to challenge the law, since they had not been arrested under it. The Supreme Court summarily affirmed the lower court's judgement. The 11th Circuit reasoned that *Doe* was not binding because the Court had not ruled on the merits of the case.

Kathy Wilde, Hardwick's attorney, called the Court's acceptance of the case a "great opportunity." "The Court will get to rule on a case with a clean set of facts. The case isn't complicated by extenuating circumstances, like a lot of sodomy cases are. It involves no money, no minors, no public sex, no force. It will give the Court a chance to rule on the question of the privacy rights of lesbians and gay men. And it will give the Court a chance to comment on the reasoning used by the 11th Circuit, regarding the interest of the state and the use of *Doe*."

Wilde thinks that there is a "good chance" of winning the case: "First, it's a theoretical issue on privacy, rather than a practical issue of 'what makes an acceptable

sodomy statute?' It's easier to address the concept of privacy than to draw the line. Second, the statute itself isn't in question in the suit, but the standard by which it is enforced. The state, according to the 11th Circuit, has to show a compelling interest to enforce the statute." Third, according to Wilde, the Court has recently affirmed home privacy rights in the case of *Payton v New York*, in which it found that an arrest warrant is not specific enough to allow police to enter a home.

While some gay and lesbian activists have pointed to the limitations of arguing for privacy rather than for sexual freedom, Wilde believes that the outcome of this case could have effects on both an everyday and a legal level. If the Court upholds the 11th Circuit's decision, it could result in a new standard by which sodomy statutes are judged, and could help protect private consensual acts between adults. However, Wilde admitted that the effects of the decision "could take a while to filter down to people." On the other hand, said Wilde, if the justices overturn the Circuit Court's decision, "it would be one more step in the continuing right-wing backlash against lesbians and gay men."

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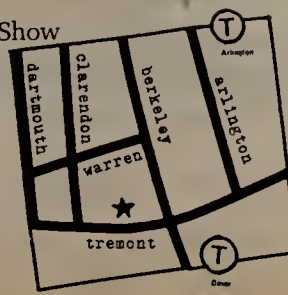
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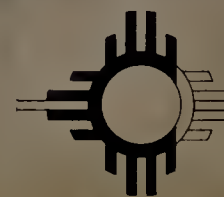
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Cassette recorder anyone? GCN depends on cassette recorders for its national news (which we often record over the phone.) If you have a working one you're not planning on using, call Mike at 426-4469. (If you have one with a transcription foot pedal, we promise to squeal and giggle and sigh and whatever else you like.) Thanks. (c)

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States that DO (usually) let prisoners write other prisoners (though you may have to get permission) are: Ver, Mass, NY, Fla, NJ, Miss, Ohio, Penn, N.Car., Kan, Tex, Col, New Mex., Ariz, Cal, Ore, Mont, Wash, Lou, Neb, Mary. (In some of these you can't write others in the same state)

States that DON'T (or only with difficulty) allow prisoners to write other prisoners are: Iowa, Okla, Nev, Idaho, W.Vir, Wyo, Tenn, Wisc, Ind. Please send us additions and corrections. THANKS!



We are in dire need of legal assistance here at Marion. Many of us have been confined completely since Aug. 6 and they are not allowing us access to the law library. Please, if someone out there can give us some legal, write: James NEWBERRY, 180108, Box 57, Marion OH 43302.

Would like to write anyone looking for a penpal. Also I want to ask GCN readers if they would help us protest the attempt to stop us [FEDERAL PRISONERS] from being able to receive holiday packages anymore. A public outcry would make a difference, especially with your congressman. Also please write: Norman Carlson, Director Bureau of Prisons, Washington DC 20534

GCN GAY AND LESBIAN PRISONER PROJECT

We seek free papers, books (when they are donated and money for postage is available), and run free penpal ads. (There's sometimes a long waiting list because of limited space.) As we get more volunteers we'll be looking for other ways to make the connections between lesbians and gay men behind bars and those of us on the outside. If you can help with your time or a contribution of mainly gay paperbacks or of money, we are at 167 Tremont, Boston, MA 02111. THANKS!

SEATTLE GAY NEWS will accept penpal ads from prisoners on as space available (!) basis from Wash, Oregon and Idaho prisoners. Write to: Seattle Gay News, 704 E. Pike St., Seattle WA 98122.

Prisioneros hispanohablantes!

En CRISALIDA estamos interesados en participar del "Prisoner Project". Favor de Informarnos si hay prisioneros hispanohablantes que deseen recibir en forma gratuita nuestra publicacion, sus nombres y sus direcciones y/o sus "clasificados" para nuestra seccion de buzón. CRISALIDA, A. Postal 36-218, 44760 Guadalajara, Jal. MEXICO.

Chicago lifer in Arizona imprisoned now 1 yrs since age of 17. Aspiring writer and accomplished jailhouse lawyer, politically active, well-versed in constitutional law surrounding the prosecution of juveniles as adults. Desires correspondent that loves literature and ideas and committed to something larger than ourselves. Roy RODRIGUEZ, Box B-30926, Florence AZ 85232.

Gay man, middle age, blue eyes, dark curly hair, nice complexion, seemingly baby doll features! Transvestite ways. Also meek, shy, psychic gifted and discreet, with deep-seated affections towards others! Please write Charles HADDEN, 013463, Box 1500 (211), Cross City FL 32628



TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE (Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist)



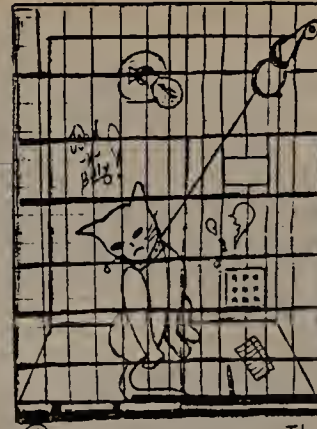
I am Black, female, lonely, intelligent, and lesbian and am looking for a mature lesbian to make things happen. Enjoy "heavy" reading, poetry, and serious minds. Save the bullshit, please. I am trying to change my life...for the better. Outsiders welcome! Kathy D. WILLIS, 88981, 971 Cty Hwy K, Toycheedah WI 54935.

Thank you for your free newspaper. Here is a little bit about me in case a gay woman wants to write. I love to dance, the beach, horses, and consider myself a very understanding, loving person. Julie VAUGHN, 150738 409, PO Box 8540, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.

I'm Italian, pretty and would like to hear from all you daring down to earth butches! Let me see how many older butches are really interested in this for-real ad. Cindy KIMBLE, P.O. Box 535, Jersey City, NJ 07310



BEHIND BARS



Okay, so I'm trying again...I need a real friend. It's true that I could use a little help with personal things here, but I won't bite if you can't help! Just write. Joe TERRACIANO, 65988, Box F-1, Leesburg, NY 08327.

I'm a high school graduate. I wear corrective glasses. I smoke, but do not drink. I've had several relationships on the street but always ended up being hurt. I'm looking for a guy with similar qualities, likes and who thinks positive. Any letters I receive will be answered. My hobbies are reading, writing letters and poems, chess, basketball, and swimming. Ronald CAMPBELL, N-30537, Box 99, Pontiac IL 61764.

I'm a very undefined person and in dire need of correspondence from the world beyond these gray walls, hoping to share the possibility of a thought, a laugh, an idea, even a tear. Darcus PRUDE, 178-238, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

I like reading good autobiographies, working out, and hanging out with my gay friends. I'm studying the use of computers and economics through correspondence but feel the need for some contact with gays on the streets. I play the piano and really appreciate your wonderful newspaper. Charles WILEY, A-640517, Box 518, Zephyrhills, FL 34283.



CALENDAR

November 9 to November 20

9 saturday

Cambridge — Lesbian Singles share arts & crafts ideas for Hannukah/Christmas. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. All women welcome. Info: 661-3633.

Salem — North Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance's **7th Anniversary Party**. The Daniels House, 1 Daniels Street. 7-10PM. \$3 non-NSGLA members.

10 sunday

Cambridge — **Black & White Men Together** meeting. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. 1-5PM. All welcome.

Cambridge — **Susanna J. Sturgis**, homecoming reading of poetry & prose. New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St. 2PM. Info: 876-5310.

11 monday

Boston — The Gay & Lesbian **Freedom Trail Band** weekly practice. All skill levels welcome. Clarendon St. YWCA, 7th floor. 7:30PM. Info: Clinton, 367-3298 (h), 876-5099 (w).

Boston — **An Early Frost** benefit screening and dinner to benefit Fenway Community Health Center. Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave. 140, \$75 per couple, \$10 video screening only. Info: 522-5095.

12 tuesday

Boston — "The Challenges to Feminist Theory from Global Feminism," a lecture by **Charlotte Bunch**. Northeastern University, Frost Lounge, 1st floor of Eli Building.

Cambridge — "Coming Out to Parents," a discussion for women. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Salem — North Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance **annual meeting**. Salem Five Community Room, 210 Essex St. 7PM. Info: 745-3848.

13 wednesday

Boston — Gay/Lesbian **Community Networking Breakfast**. Presenters: Triangle Theater and Passage to Kenya. Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave. 8AM. Info: 265-0348.

Lynn — **Dyke-bashing protest** at pre-trial hearing for Lee Cunningham, accused in 9/28 assault. Lynn District Court, 580 Essex. 10AM. Info: 628-4382.

Cambridge — **Charlotte Bunch** lecture and lunch. Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe. 12:30PM. \$7. Info: 495-8647.

Cambridge — "A Comedy in Six Unnatural Acts" & "Home Movie," screenings along with a stand-up comedy act by **Jan Oxenberg**. Harvard Univ. Science Center. 8PM. \$4, \$3 students. Info: 495-2663.

Cambridge — **Open Discussion Group** for Women on "Stress." Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10PM. Info: 354-8807.

14 thursday

Boston — GCN's production night when articles are proofread and pasted up. Join the fun; read tomorrow's news today. 5-8PM for proofing, 7:30-midnight for lay-out. 167 Tremont St. (near Park and Boylston "T") GCN: 426-4469.

Boston — "AIDS: A Seminar on America's #1 Health Problem," presented by AIDS Action Committee. Northeastern Univ., 108 Snell. 11:45AM-1:30PM.



Audre Lorde, Nov. 20

Boston — "Gay Boston," a monthly magazine television show, Access Channel A3, 8PM.

Jamaica Plain — **Women's Spirituality** Group meeting to discuss personal spiritual journeys and stories, bring food or drink. 6:30PM. Info: 522-6404.

Cambridge — **Lesbians Choosing Children** Network: "The Experience of Pregnancy." Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30PM. Info: 868-6922 or 522-2180.

Boston — Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Bar Association and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) reception for **law students & new attorneys**, 14 Beacon St., Conference Rm., 5PM.

15 friday

Boston — GCN's **VOLUNTEER NIGHT**: come help send the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments & good times. Anytime after 6PM. 167 Tremont St. (near Park and Boylston "T") To be let in, buzz GCN's intercom outside the street entrance. GCN: 426-4469.

Boston — Boston Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance 4th Annual **Community Recognition Awards Dinner**. China Pearl Restaurant, 9 Tyler St., Chinatown. 6:30PM. \$20. Cash bar. Info: 739-1520.

Cambridge — "Moving Men," a dance concert. Joy of Movement Studio Theater, 536 Mass. Ave. 8PM. \$7. Also Sat. & Sun. Info: 491-7377.

Cambridge — **Lesbian Reading Group** discussing *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. Daughters of Bilitis, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. \$1. All women welcome. Info: 661-3633.

Medford — Cheryl A. Boudreaux Mensah to lead discussion on **Women's Spirituality**, followed by potluck dinner. Burden Lounge, Tufts College. 7PM.

Somerville — Ticket deadline for Somerville/Medford Gay & Lesbian Alliance 2nd Annual **Holiday Ball**. Dinner/dance \$25, dance \$7. Info: 625-3172, 623-3786.

Boston — Am Tikva **Shabbat Service** & discussion, "Outreach to the Jewish Community." Bring dessert. 74 Joy St. 8PM. Info: 782-8894.

Cambridge — **Gays at MIT** fall dance: "Crash 5." MIT Student Center, 84 Mass. Ave. 9PM. \$3/\$2 students. Students and their guests welcome. Info: 253-5440.

Cambridge — **Angry Arts films**: *Abortion: North & South* and *Business of Hunger*. YWCA, 7 Temple St. \$2.75. Also Sat. and Sun. 7:30PM. Info: 625-9279.

16 saturday

Jamaica Plain — **Lesbian Sexuality Workshop** led by Sarah Pearlman, trained sexuality therapist & educator. 10AM-5PM. \$25-50. Info: 524-1776.

Boston — Greater Boston **Gay Men's Association**. St. John the Evangelist, 33 Bowdoin St. 8PM. Film will be shown. All welcome.

17 sunday

Cambridge — **Bright Morning Star** in concert to benefit *Gay Community News*. Paine Hall, Harvard Univ. 8PM. \$5 advance, \$7 at door (more if/less if). Info: 426-4469.

Cambridge — **Eleanor Smeal** to speak at Boston NOW Campus Campaign. Science Center B, Harvard Univ. 3PM. Info: 661-6015.

Medford — **Women's Video Collective** to show film from Women's Conference in Nairobi. Wessel Library Audio-Visual Rm., Tufts Univ. 7PM.

Watertown — Harriet Hosmer Hop, Gays & Lesbians of Watertown's 1st **anniversary dance** with DJ. First Parish, Unitarian. \$4 in advance only. Info: 924-6044, 926-5371, 469-0088.

Brookline — **Lesbian potluck**: meet neighbors and develop community. Info: 566-2558.

Cambridge — **Judith Brown**, author of *Immodest Acts: The Life of a Lesbian Nun in Renaissance Italy*. New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St. 2-4PM. Info: 876-5310.

Jamaica Plain — Potluck and discussion for **disabled lesbians**. 2PM. Info: 524-1890.



Wendy Osserman Dance Company, Nov. 20

18 monday

Lowell — Department of Public Health **forum on AIDS**. Smith Baker Center, Merrimac St. 7-9PM. Info: 727-0049.

19 tuesday

Boston — **Gay State Workers** opposed to the Governor's Foster Care Policy meeting, City Council Chambers, City Hall (Congress St. door), 6-7:30PM. Info: Jason, 727-7440 or 262-3598.

Cambridge — **Fanny Howe** reading her fiction & Ruth Whitman reading her poetry. New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St., Inman Square. 7:30PM. \$2.

Boston — Lesbian & Gay Constituency of the **Rainbow Coalition** general meeting. 7:30PM. Everyone welcome. Info: 522-6283.

Marblehead — North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance Potluck & Discussion on **families and holidays**, Unitarian Church, 25 Mugford St., 7-10PM. Info: Doug or Joe, 639-1398.

20 wednesday

Boston — **Audre Lorde** on Boston Network News, Cable Channel A3. Video tape from "Naming, Claiming, Changing" series. 8PM. Info: 424-7292.

Cambridge — "Silent Pioneers," a film about **gay people & aging**. Common Room, Vanderbilt Hall, Harvard Medical School, Avenue Louis Pasteur. 12:30PM. Free.

Wellesley — **Wendy Osserman Dance Company**. Wellesley College, Alumni Hall. 8PM. \$5. Info: 239-2510.

note this!

Kate Clinton

Live at the American Music Hall
Whyscrack Records

In moments of candor, many lesbians will admit that we tend to take some aspects of our culture (if not our politics) a tad too seriously. So we gals can always benefit from opportunities for collective chuckles at the sillier points of hallowed institutions like women's music festivals, snickers at the trendiness of lesbian practices from vegetarianism to non-monogamy, and smirks at the ridiculous edge to some of our valuable discussions on topics like body image, coming out, sexuality, religion, and, as always, process. Recognizing this, lesbian-feminist comedian Kate Clinton not only aims her political wit at our sexist and homophobic enemies, she keeps us honest by keeping us laughing at ourselves.

Kate's new album, *Live at the American Music Hall* (available as a dazzling red disc or in cassette), was recorded in San Francisco earlier this year. On the album, Kate brings out the humor in experiences many lesbians have shared, from unattractive adolescence ("My mother told me, 'Kathleen, you'll never get a boyfriend if you're this heavy.' This is when I started to abuse Hydrox Cookies."); to recreation league softball ("My team made Michael Jackson our mascot because he wears a glove on one hand for no apparent reason."); to the lesbian baby boom (in a sketch about a dyke's child whose first word is "da-da," that is, "donor"). Unlike sexist comedians who make women the butt of every joke, Kate pokes at the lesbian community and buoys us up for the next bout with the patriarchy; when we laugh, we laugh in complicity.

Kate is less sanguine toward the other objects of her political satire. She pokes fun at Ronald and Nancy ("I love Nance. She seems so lifelike."); as a "recovered Catholic," she presents Church doctrines and practices at their most absurd ("Some days in the Catholic Church are a lot like Double Coupon days: you can wrap up a lot of indulgences.");

Eager as many of us are for good lesbian-feminist humor, we hold high expectations for women-identified comedians. My sights may be set too high, for I found *Live at the American Music Hall* to be disappointing. First, the whole album seemed to need tightening up. Some idle chit-chat with an audience is to be expected on a live album, but even during her best sketches, Kate gives brilliant insights only to ramble frustratingly off the track. Moreover, some of her jokes seem in humorless bad taste, especially her pot-shots at individuals. One such unfortunate joke refers to the physical deterioration of Rock Hudson on *Dynasty*. Kate's album was obviously made before Hudson's disclosure of having AIDS, but the joke would hardly be funny in any context.

Finally, it's difficult to appreciate stand-up comedy without the comedian before you and the audience around you. I have been to several of Kate Clinton's live appearances and found her hilarious; an album just can't pick up the fun of one of her performances. Anyone wanting to experience Kate at her best should keep in mind her upcoming Boston appearance with guest Patty Larkin on Saturday, November 23 at 8 p.m. at the Strand Theatre in Dorchester. For information, call 547-1378.

— Shelley Mains

The GCN weekly calendar includes events in the Boston area of interest to the lesbian and gay community. We try not to leave anything out but remember, we depend on you to keep us informed. The deadline is Friday noon for the following issue. Just send the information to GCN Calendar, 167 Tremont Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02111.

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

Read what our subscribers—near and far—say about GCN.

A community is as connected as its organs of communication—its ability to “get the word out.” For the lesbian and gay community, GCN is it Simply enough, I read GCN to keep track of what’s going on.

—Audre Lorde, poet

I find that your paper is the best of the several I get in the gay world. It may be a small paper as far as size, but I get better news—to use a pun, straight news, from you not only on New England topics, but nationwide. . . . Stay in there and fight.

—A Subscriber from Maine

GCN has emerged over the past few years as the most significant voice of the gay movement published in the United States.

—Dennis Altman, author

For over twelve years GCN has dedicated itself to providing coverage for the lesbian and gay community that can’t be found elsewhere. GCN serves as a reminder that an informed community is our strongest asset.

—Ginny Apuzzo, former executive director,
National Gay Task Force

Just a note to say that I love GCN, and it’s a well written, laid out publication. Keep up the excellent work.

—A Subscriber from Boston

A non-profit venture run by a skilled and dedicated staff, GCN is one of the most important forces in the movement. It is comprehensive, informative, provocative, and just plain irksome: it’s indispensable.

—Scott Tucker, activist

If you read GCN’s lively letters pages, you know not all our readers are always this supportive about everything in GCN. But GCN readers *always* feel they are part of the debate.

Don’t leave out your friends, lovers and family members.

Give them the gift that lasts the whole year.

Give them subscriptions to *Gay Community News*.